Sky Marshals on IA/AI Flights

†148. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sky Marshals are being deputed on each flight of Indian Airlines and Air India; if so, since when and wherefrom this practice has been started;

(b) whether Sky Marshals were deployed on Boeing 737 of Alliance Air coming to Delhi from Mumbai, if so, how hijacking thereof took place; and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the complete details of the said plane-hijacking?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Sky Marshals have been deployed on Indian Airlines flights on domestic routes, beginning January, 2000, in the aftermath of hijack of IC-814. Sky Marshals are being deployed on all domestic routes at random basis, and not on each flight.

(b) and (c) There were no Sky Marshals on Alliance Air flight CD-7444 on 3.10.2001. The said flight was not hijacked. However, due to some misunderstanding the pilot-in-command concluded that the plane had been hijacked.

International Air Service From Bangalore

149. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the international carriers who have requested to start flights from Bangalore to various International destinations; and

(b) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) So far the designated airlines of Hongkong, Germany, Malaysia, Nepal and four Gulf Air Owner States have been granted access to Bangalore as requested by them. Besides designated airlines of Singapore, United Kingdom, Switzerland and Sri Lanka have also shown interest to operate to/from Bangalore. However, Bangalore is not available to them as a point of call at present.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.